

An Architect's Guide to Expressive Game Environments

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~architecture & videogames OTP~
I ‘ship it so hard

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"Architecture is the thoughtful making of space"

-Louis Kahn

"The central question is how to delight with architecture"

-Tadao Ando

"spatial representation is of key importance [to games]"

-Espen Aarseth,
Allegories of space

...a note about Narrative and Form



Cave of Altamira, Spain

Spatial meaning is conveyed…

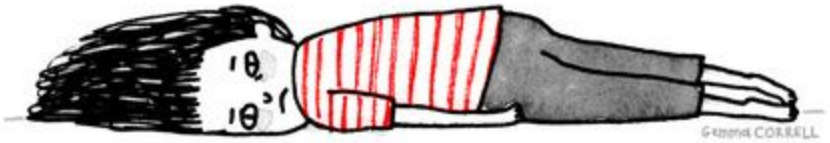
explicitly -- with symbols & text
implicitly -- through form & order

Something I have heard from both game designers and players...



“I am tired of how unrealistic the spaces in games are... Doesn’t this bother you?”

NOPE.





More expressive!

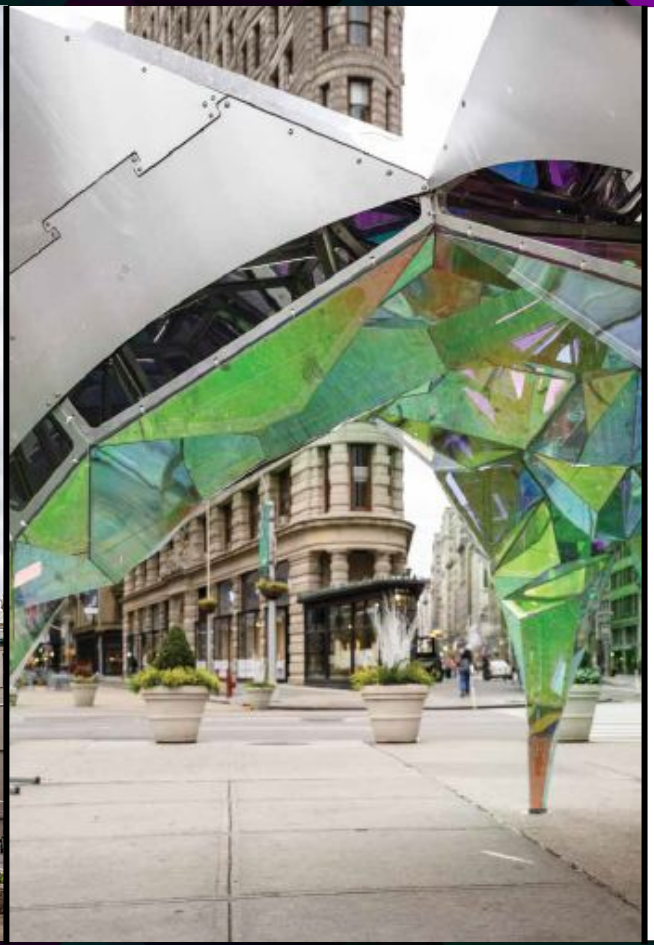
Not more accurate or “real”


Fifth Avenue and Flat Iron Building,
New York City
Budweiser
Everywhere

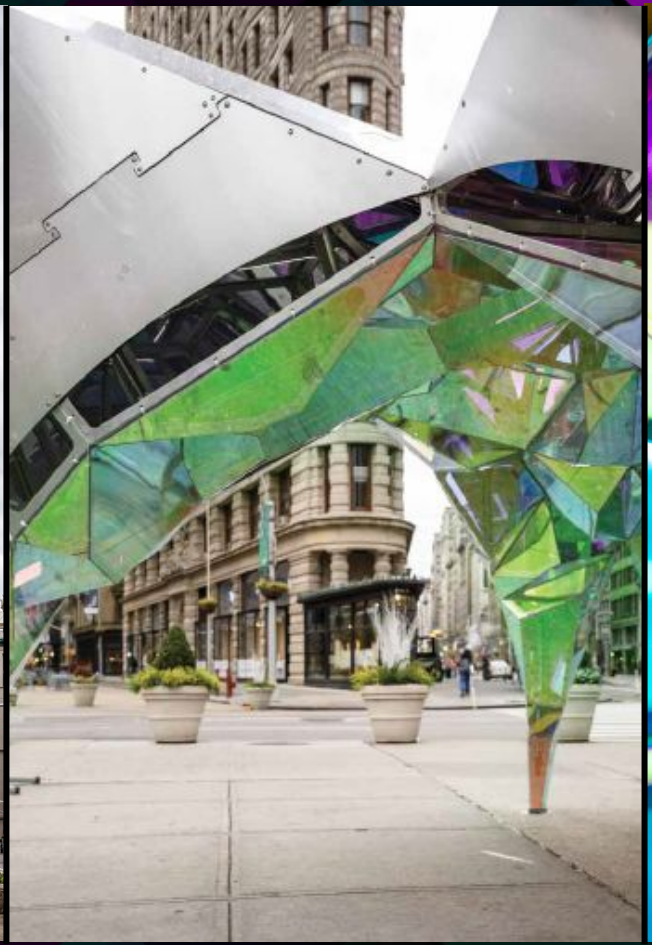
Expressive architectures
acknowledge their relationships!













Nova Pavilion by Softlab

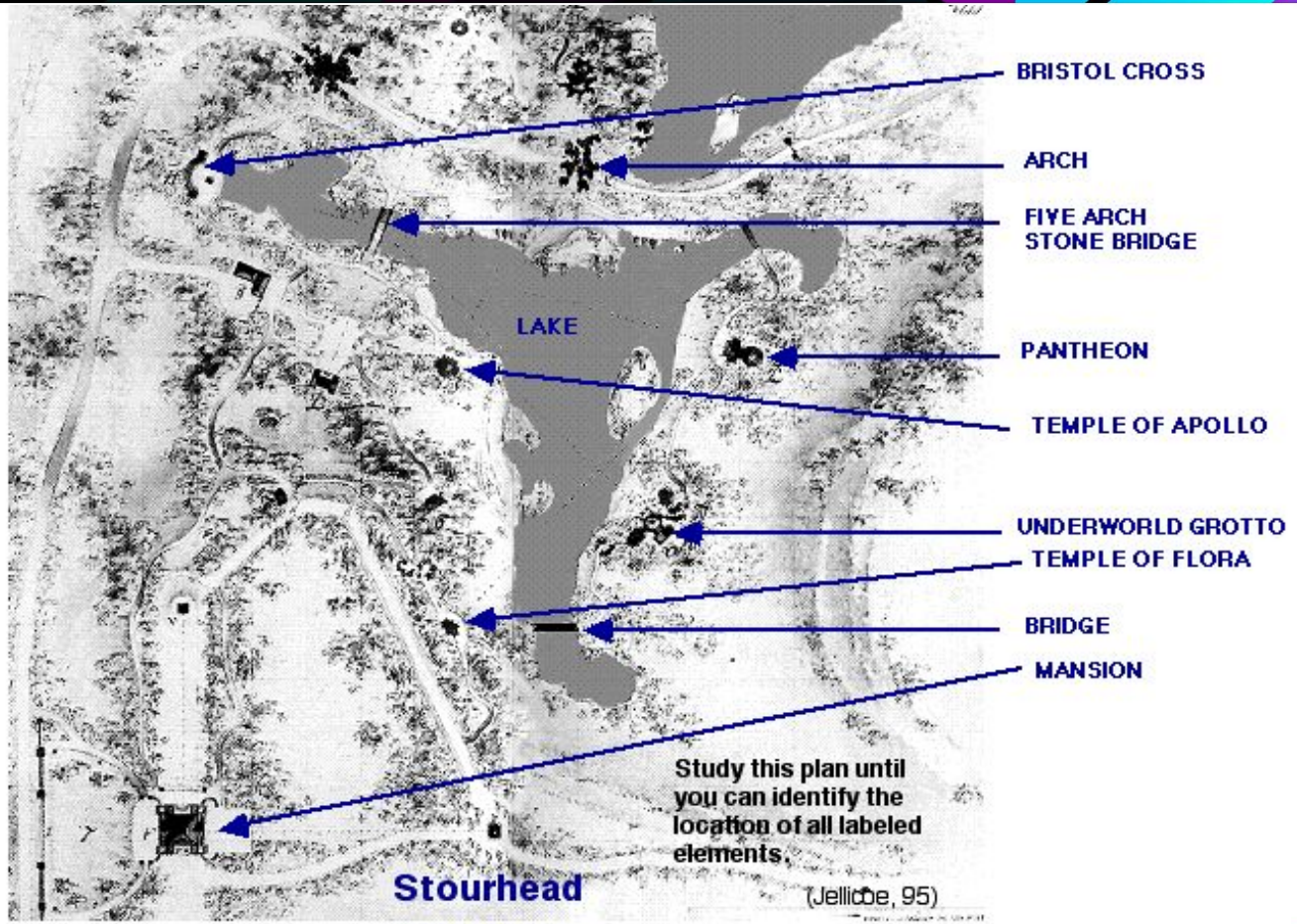
Relationship to Context

Context is the...

- Landscape
- Culture
- History
- Ideas

...that “surround” a given subject.

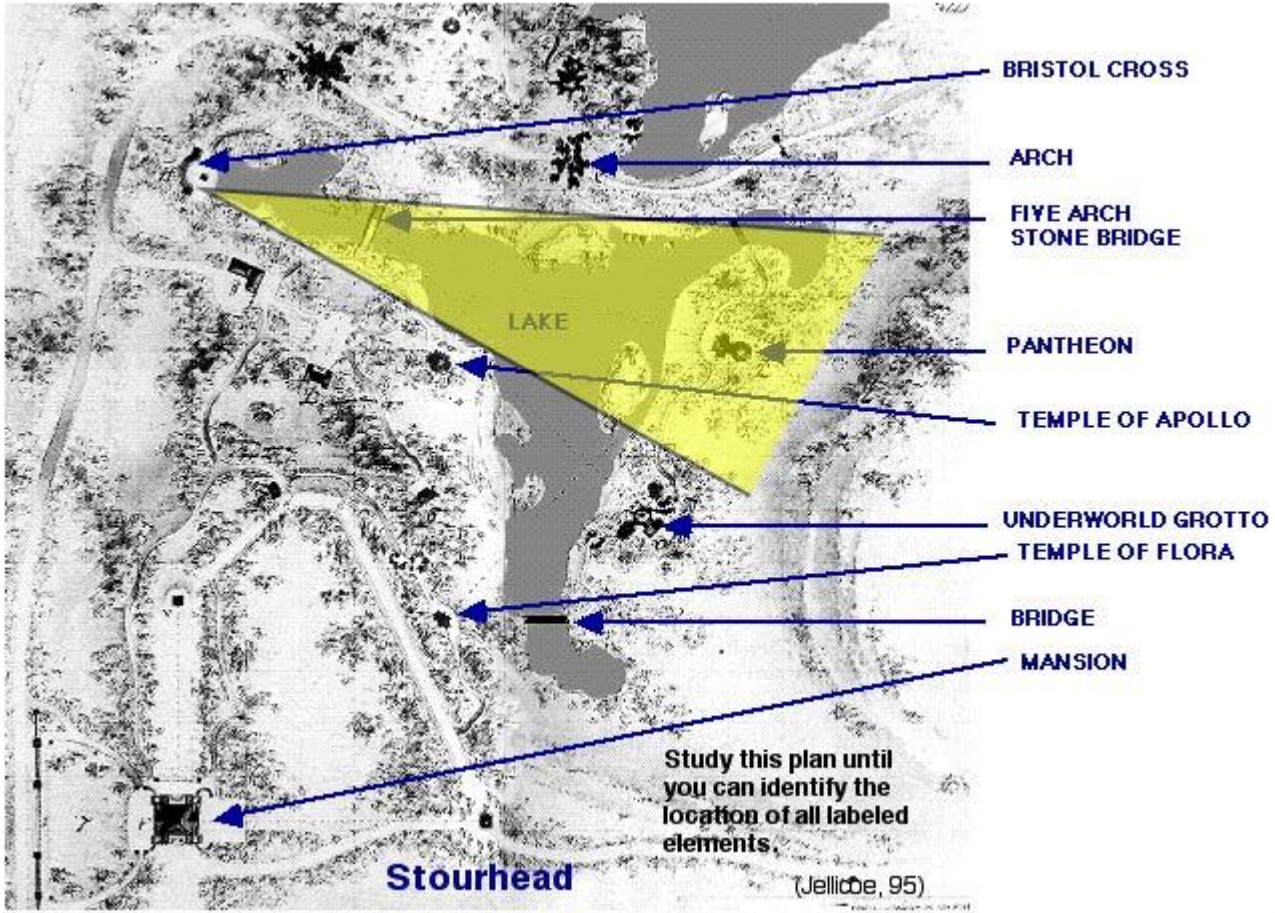


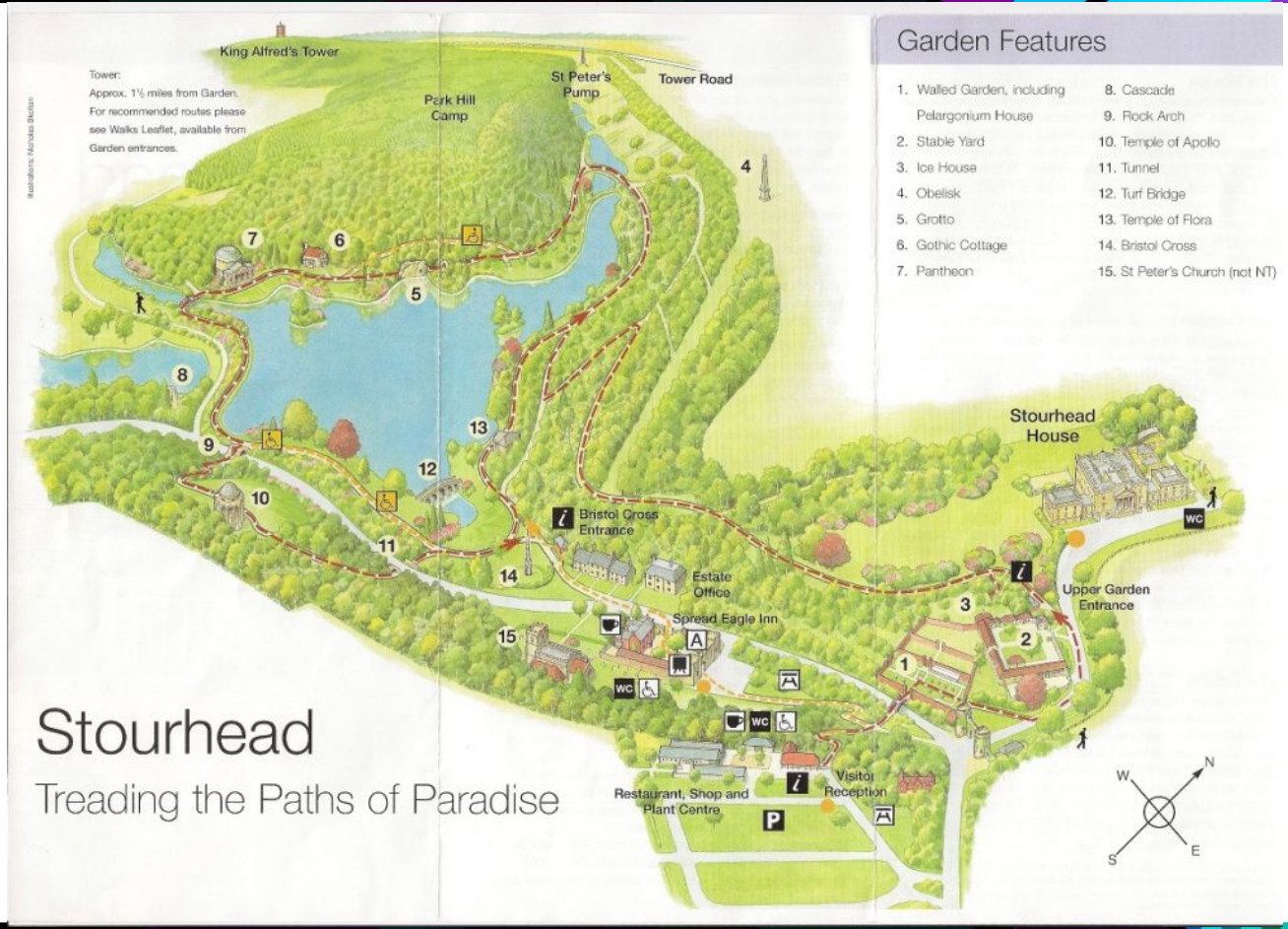

BRISTOL CROSS
ARCH
FIVE ARCH
STONE BRIDGE
LAKE
PANTHEON
TEMPLE OF APOLLO
UNDERWORLD GROTTO
TEMPLE OF FLORA
BRIDGE
MANSION
Study this plan until you can identify the location of all labeled elements.
Stourhead
(Jellicoe, 95)








BRISTOL CROSS
ARCH
FIVE ARCH STONE BRIDGE
LAKE
PANTHEON
TEMPLE OF APOLLO
UNDERWORLD GROTTO
TEMPLE OF FLORA
BRIDGE
MANSION
Study this plan until you can identify the location of all labeled elements.
Stourhead
(Jellicoe, 95)


King Alfred's Tower
Tower:
Approx. 1½ miles from Garden.
For recommended routes please see Walks Leaflet, available from Garden entrances.
Park Hill Camp
St Peter's Pump
Tower Road
Restrictions Notices Section
Garden Features
1. Walled Garden, including Pelargonium House
2. Stable Yard
3. Ice House
4. Obelisk
5. Grotto
6. Gothic Cottage
7. Pantheon
8. Cascade
9. Rock Arch
10. Temple of Apollo
11. Tunnel
12. Turf Bridge
13. Temple of Flora
14. Bristol Cross
15. St Peter's Church (not NT)
Stourhead House
Bristol Cross Entrance
Estate Office
Spread Eagle Inn
Upper Garden Entrance
Restaurant, Shop and Plant Centre
Visitor Reception
WC
N
W
E
S
Stourhead
Treading the Paths of Paradise





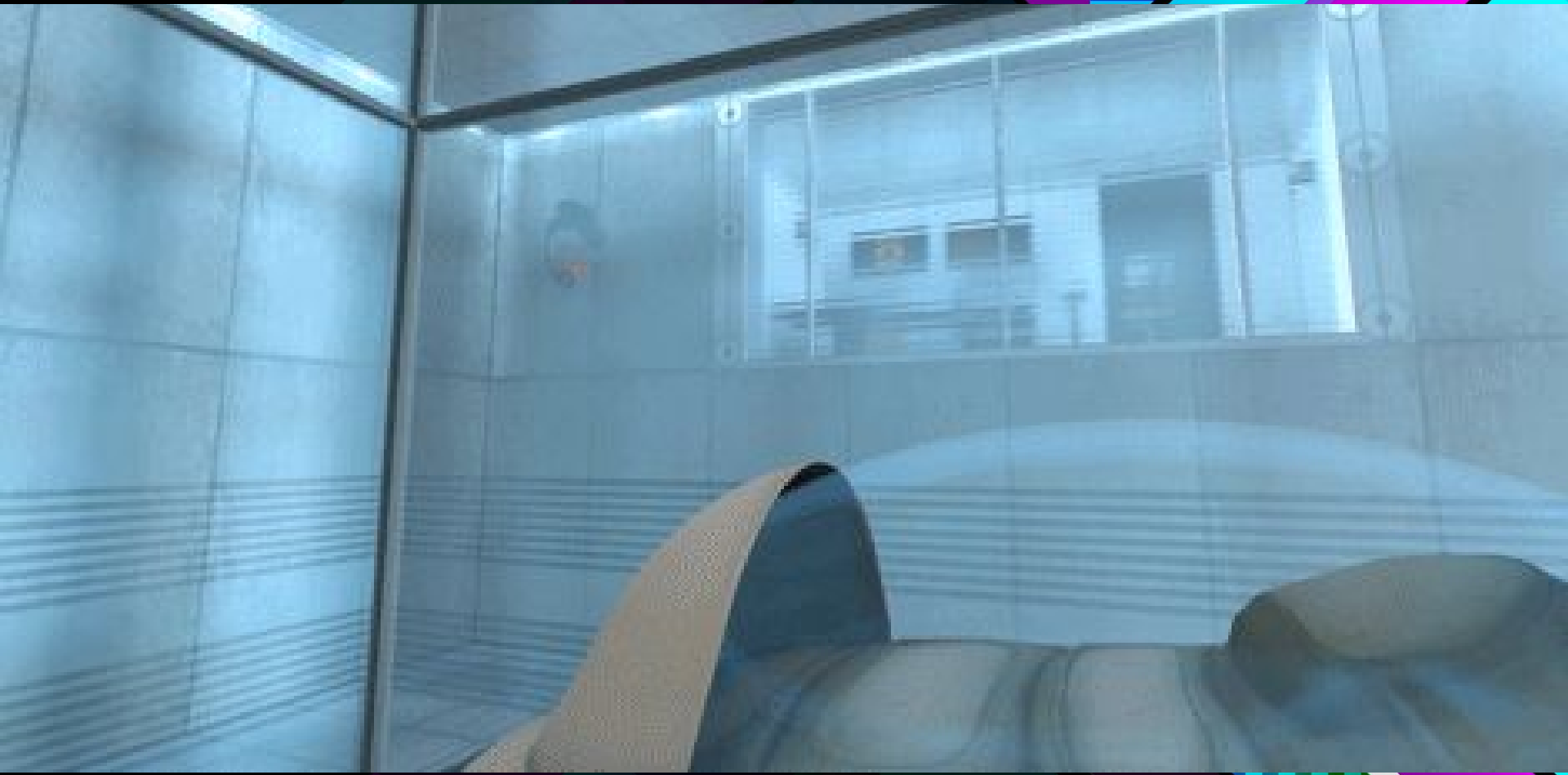




The Grotto at Stourhead








LIMBO
ROOM
STOUT


INTO THE


3+
6
BELLA MIA'S
HIGH FASHION
DIRECTORY
0-0

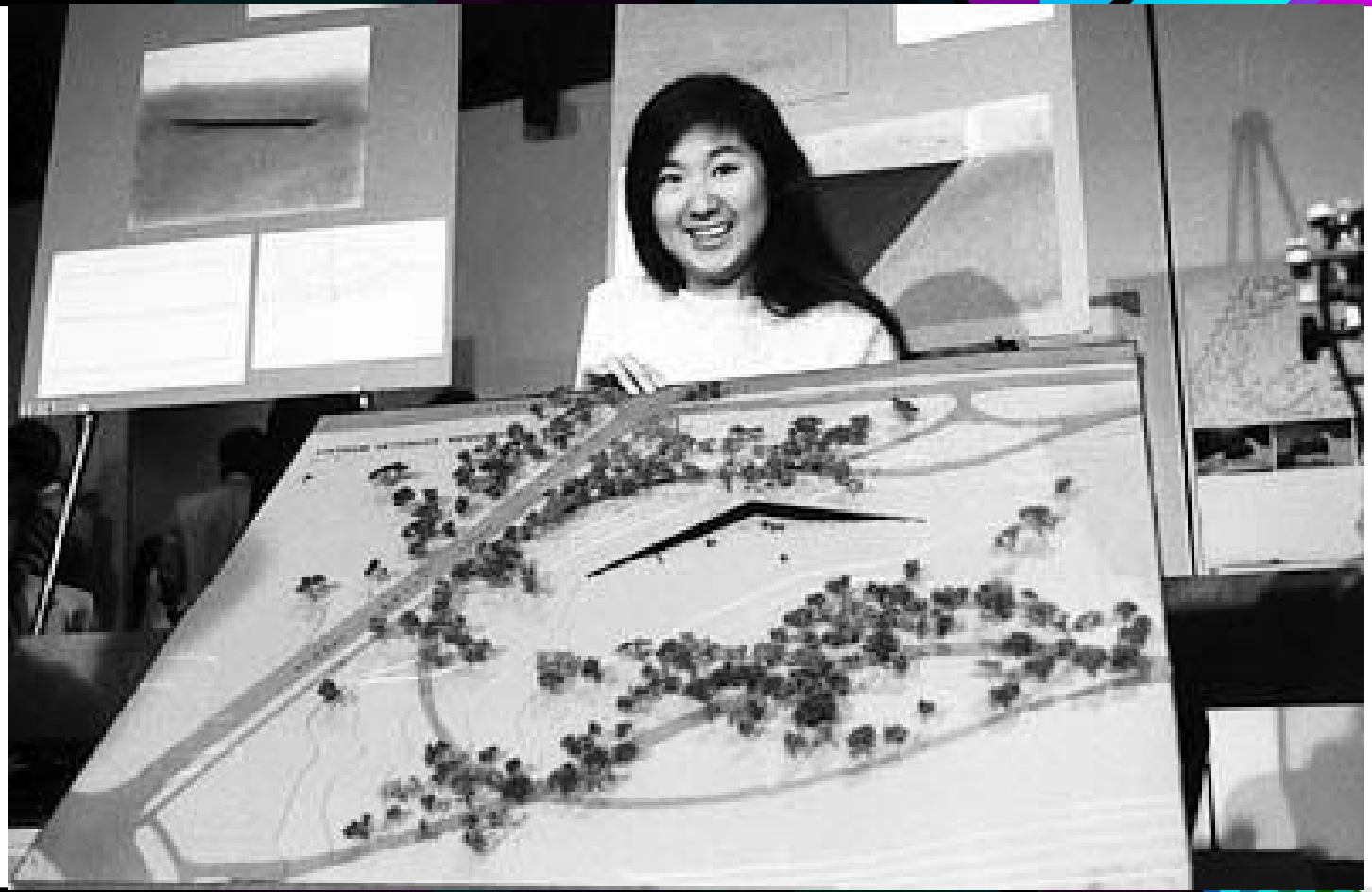

19429
+84
55793
32139
LV 50 Tenacious Technophile

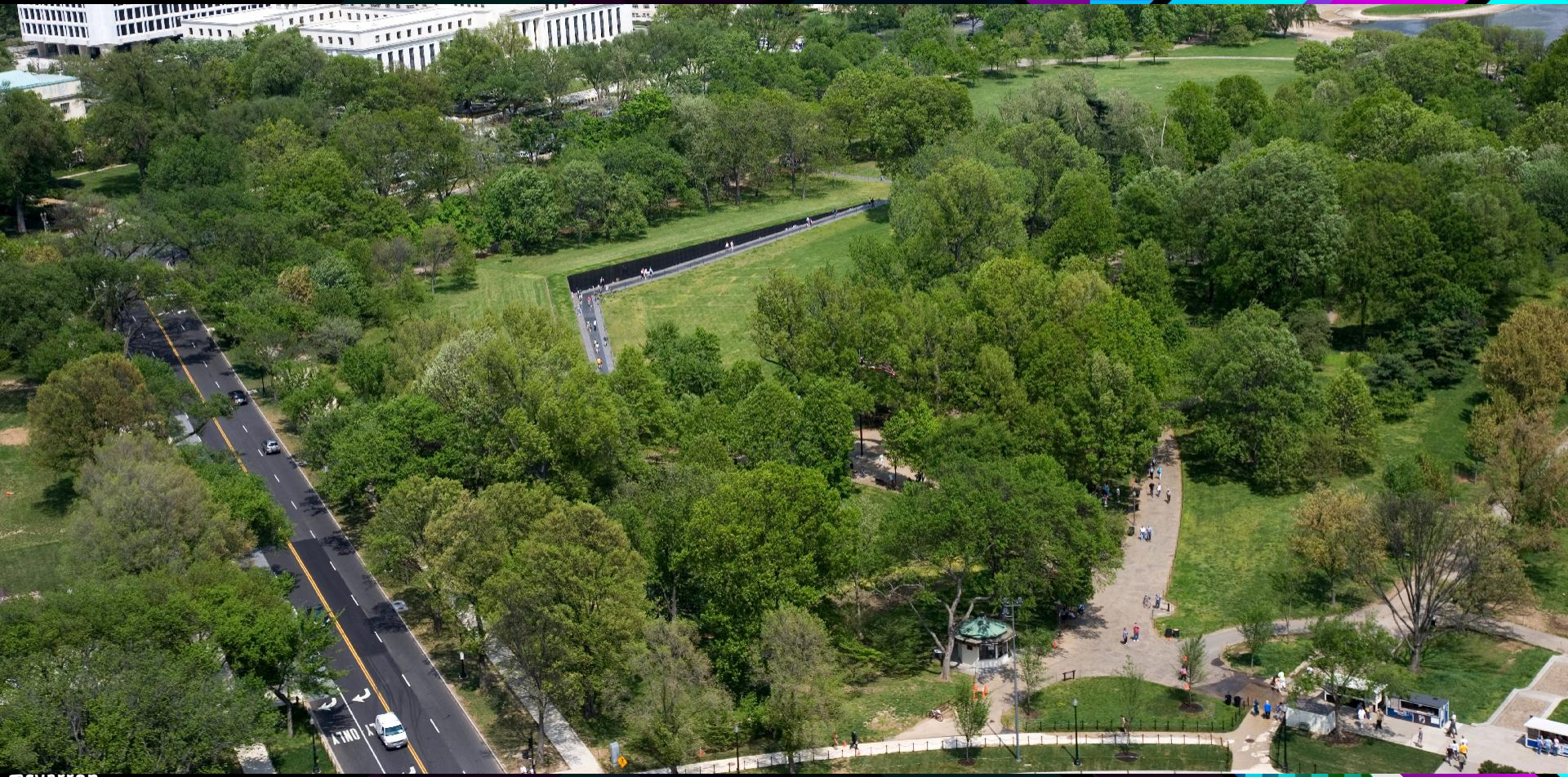

Arms Dealing
(PAUSED) 02:00
Go to first mailbox
55793
45208
LV 50 Tenacious Technophile
50 / 388


55793
45208
50 Tenacious Technophile
50 / 388


Arms Dealing
(PAUSED) 02:00
Go to first mailbox:
55793
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x111
LV 50 Tenacious Technophile
9 / 9
50 / 388


UNCOMMON
VALOR
WAS A COMMON
VIRTUE




ONLY





Vietnam War Memorial in Washington DC by Maya Lin



Vietnam War Memorial in Washington DC by Maya Lin




NE
E
SE
Crysis



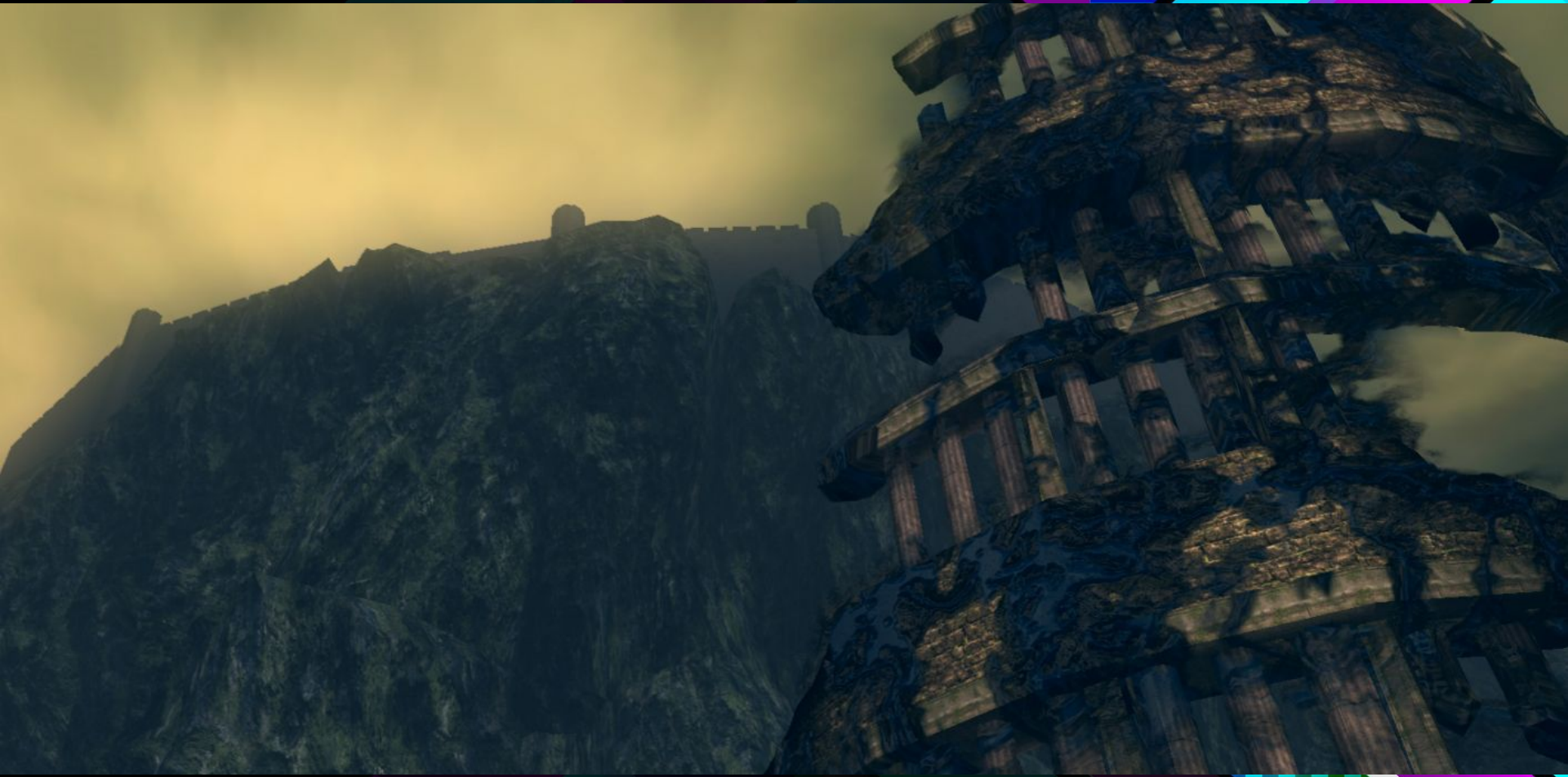





02
3
Wrath of the Gods
332
19
Blooming Purple Moss Clump
124220


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Wrath of the Gods
20
Estus Flask +4
6026





The Broken Path of History



...




Fallout
NEW VEGAS

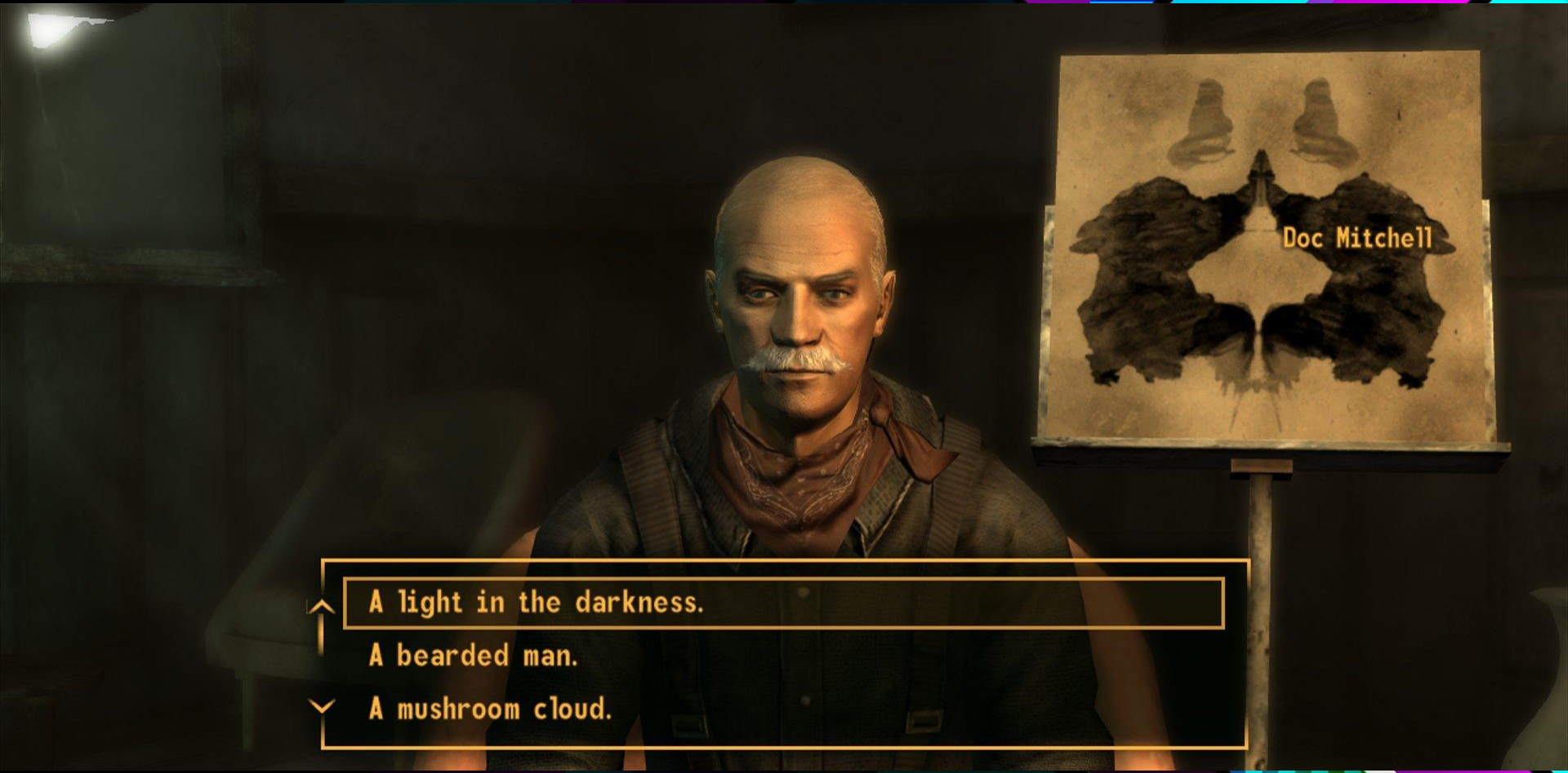


Fallout New Vegas



Fallout New Vegas


New Vegas
Goodsprings
profallout2.ru


Doc Mitchell
A light in the darkness.
A bearded man.
A mushroom cloud.



Fallout New Vegas



Fallout New Vegas


Fallout New Vegas



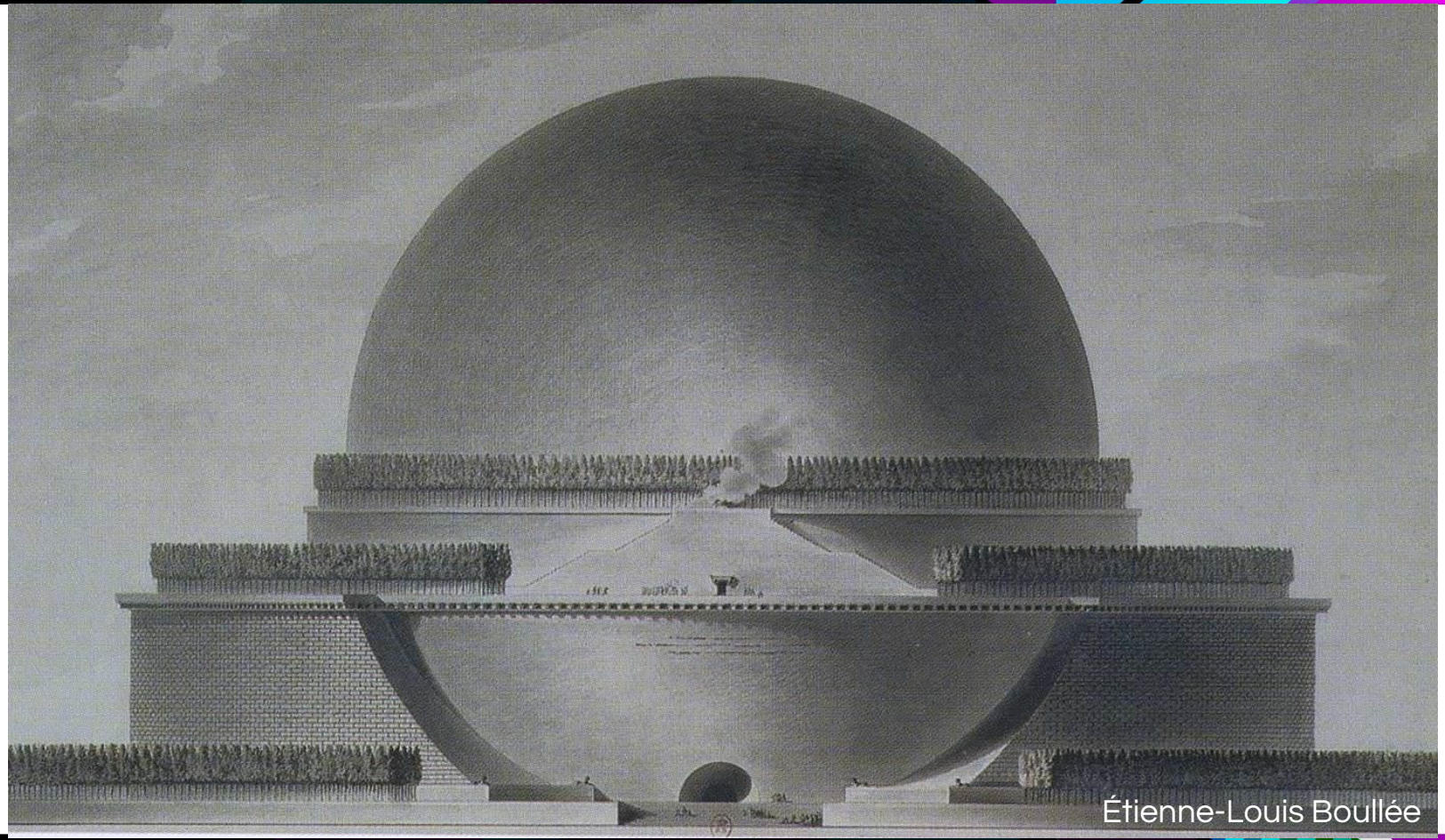
Fallout New Vegas



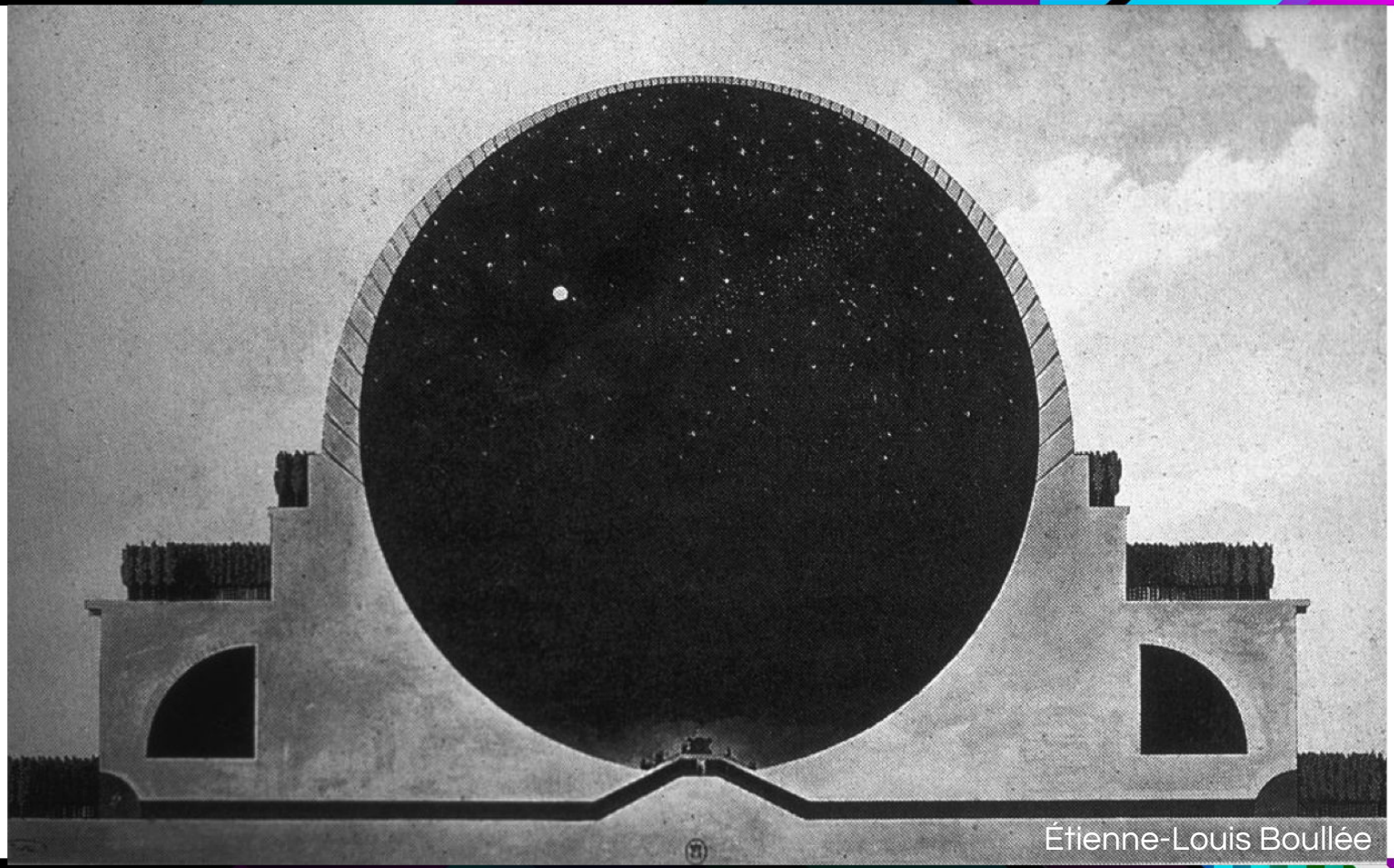
Fallout New Vegas

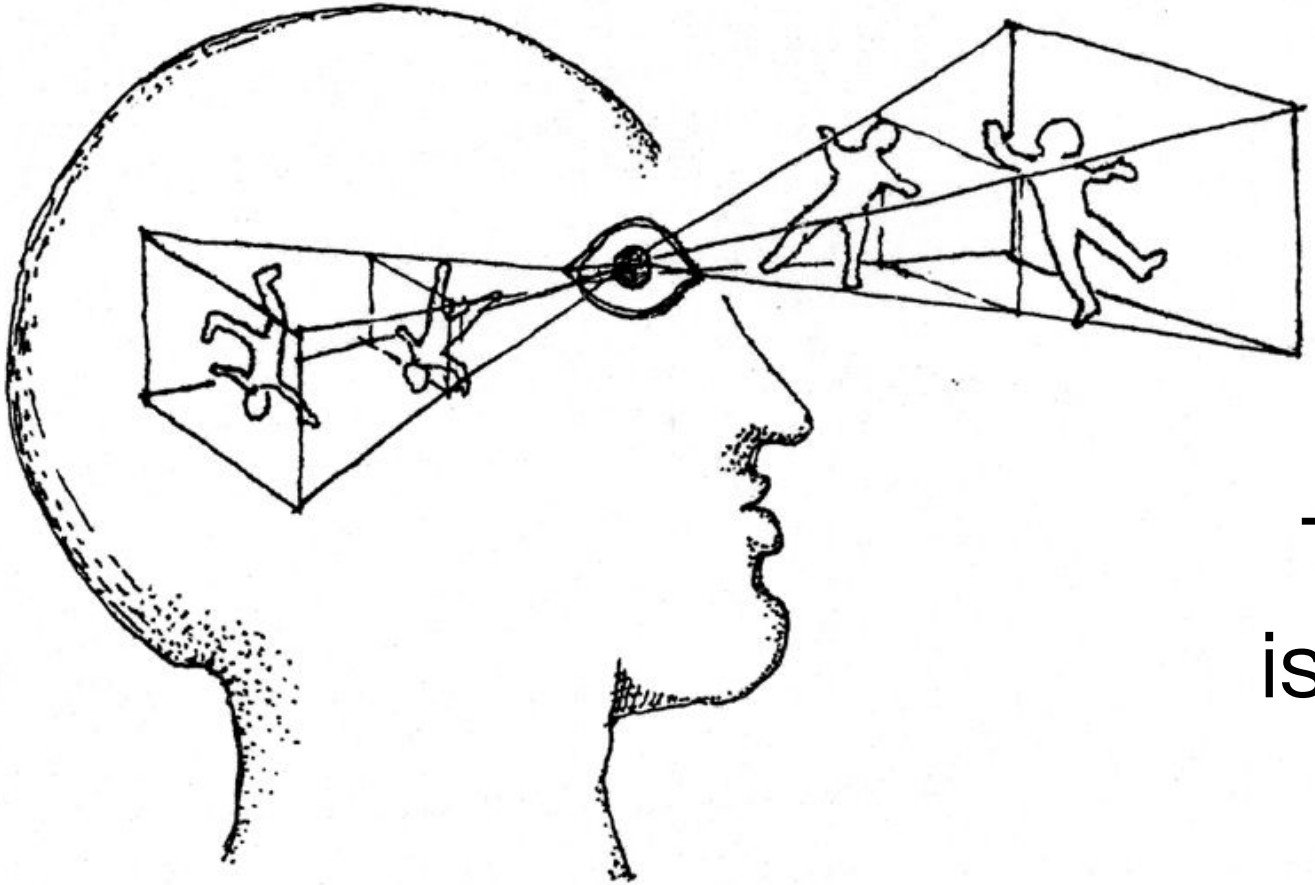
Bodies and architectures





Étienne-Louis Boullée

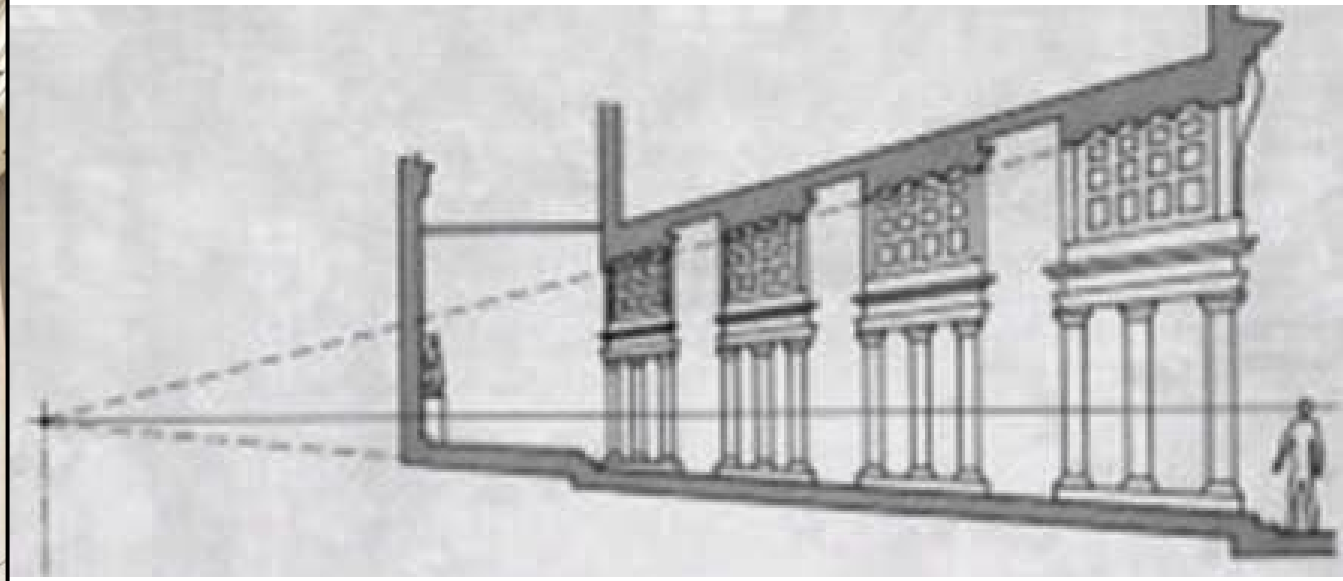

Étienne-Louis Boullée



The Body is a conduit


Borromini





Borromini

The body is performing...

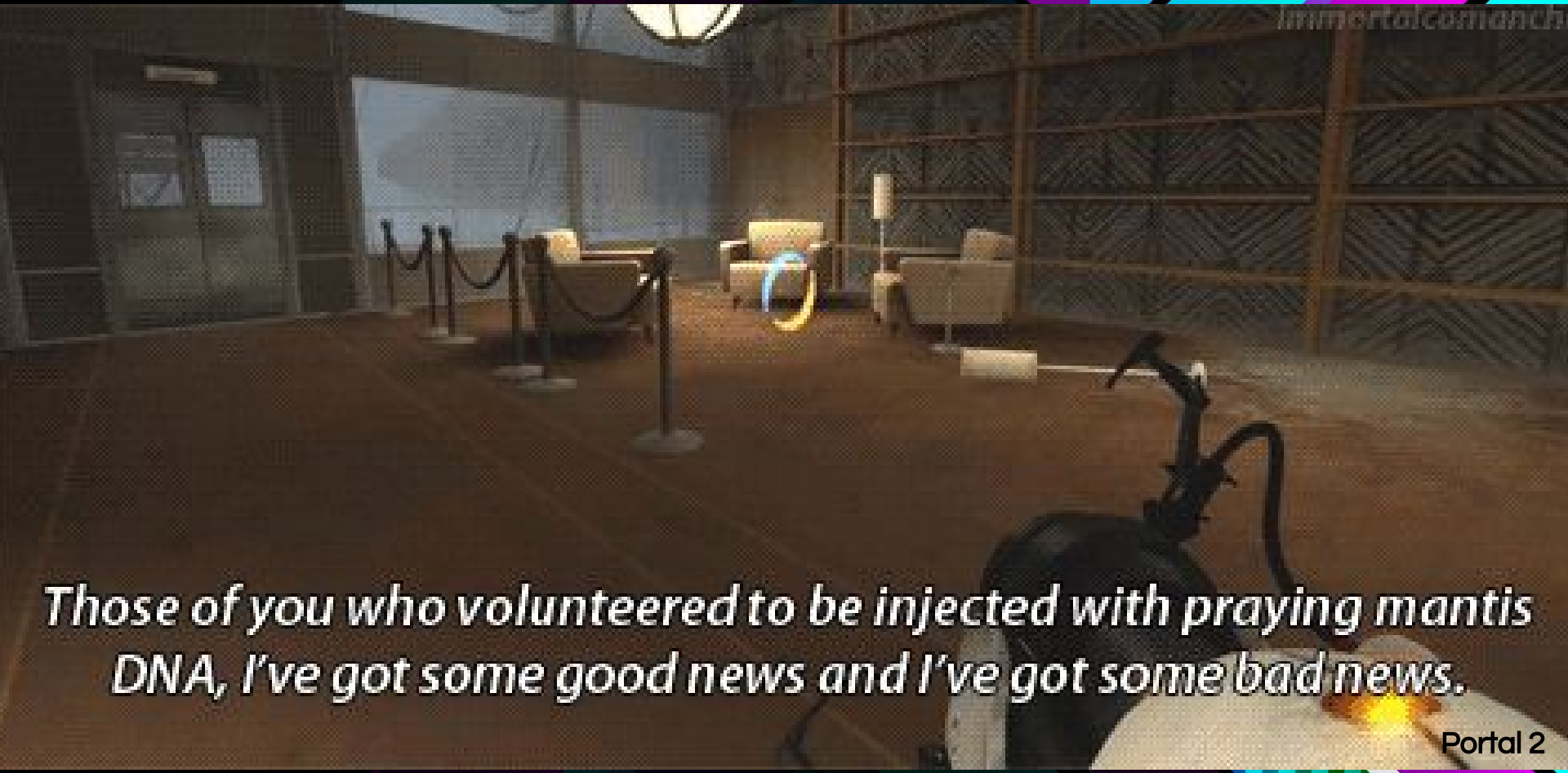


...and architecture performs back


FRACT OSC

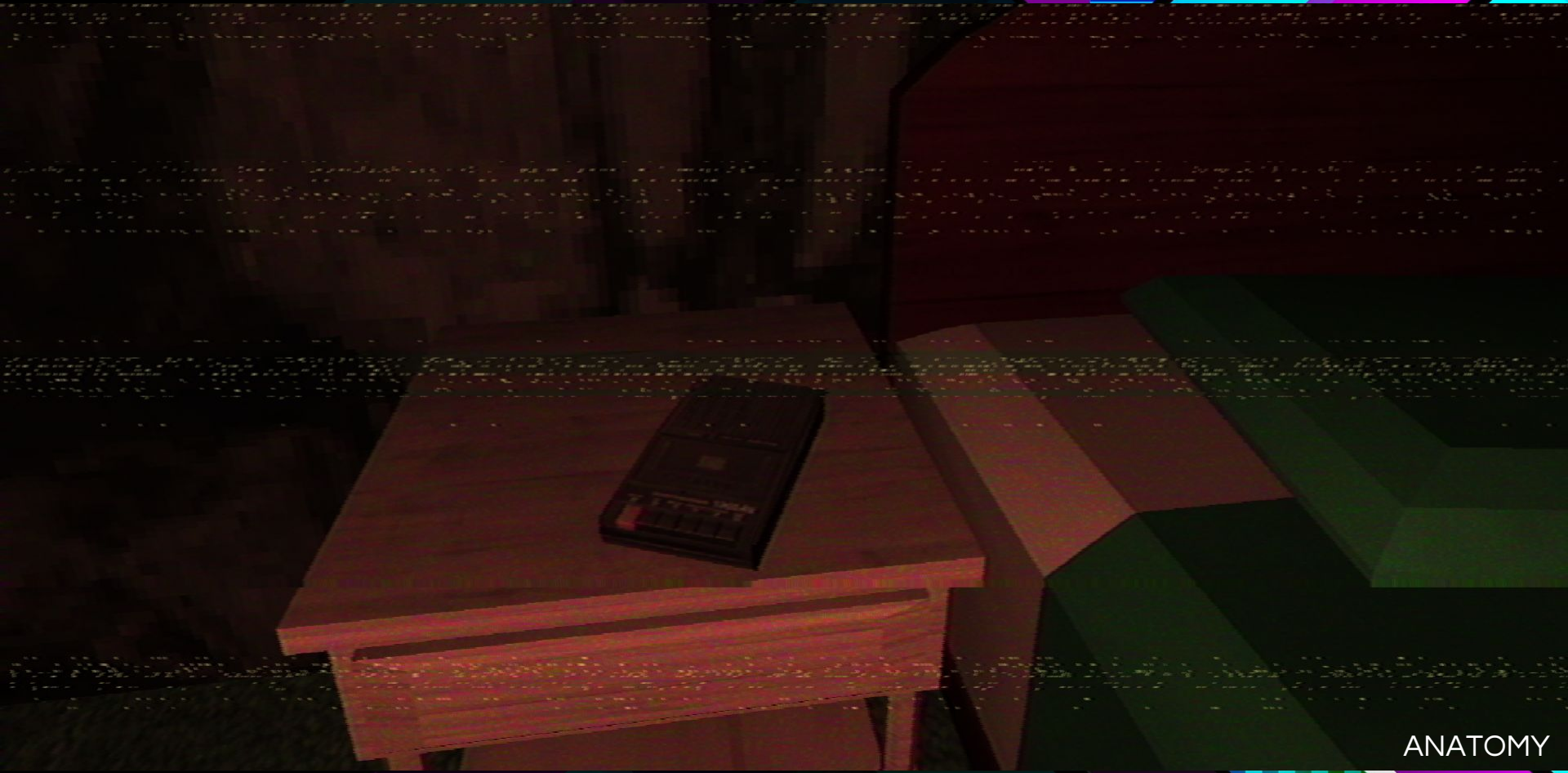

Portal


Architecture is
a kind of body

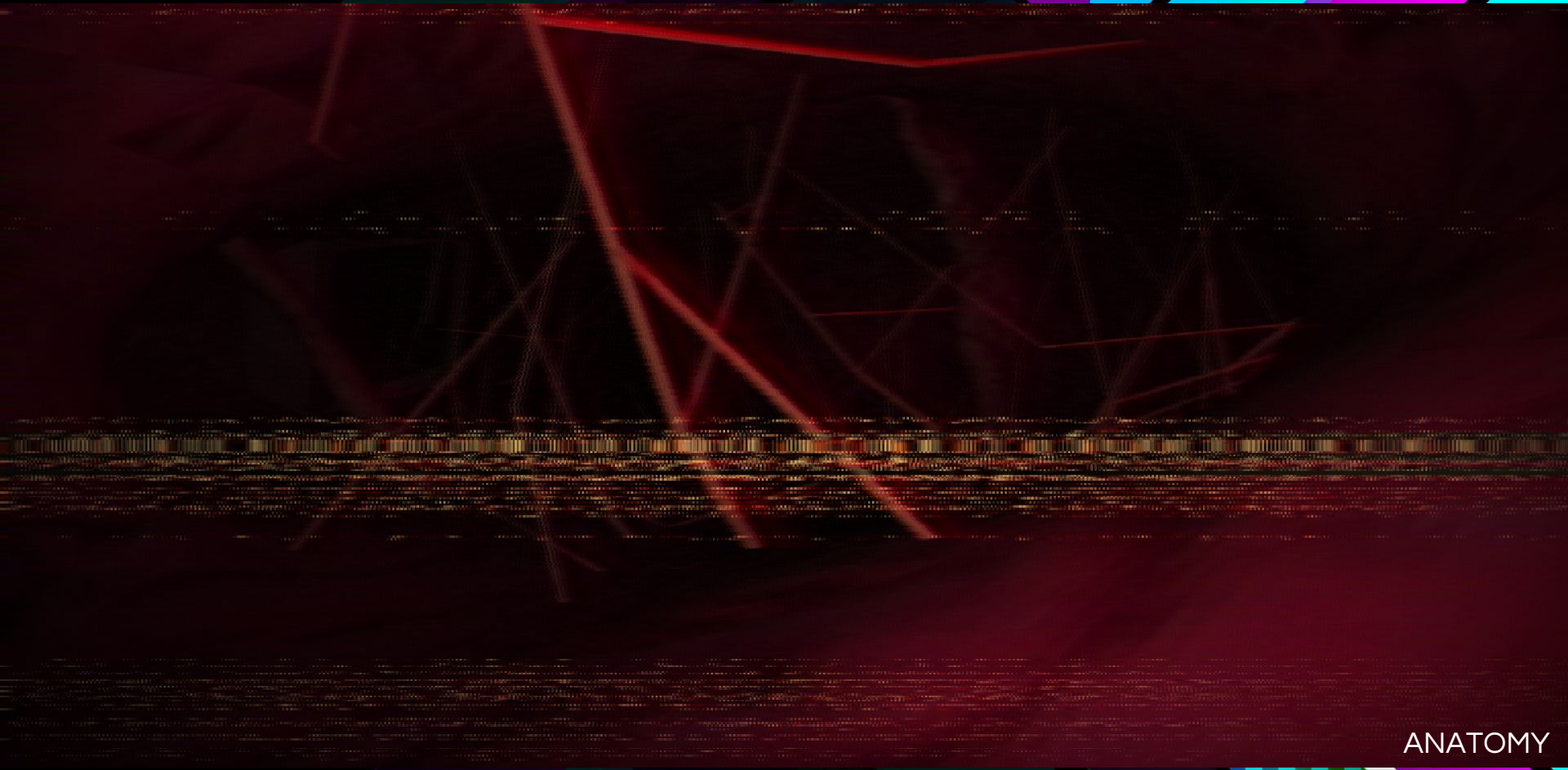

immortalcomanch
Those of you who volunteered to be injected with praying mantis DNA, I've got some good news and I've got some bad news.
Portal 2

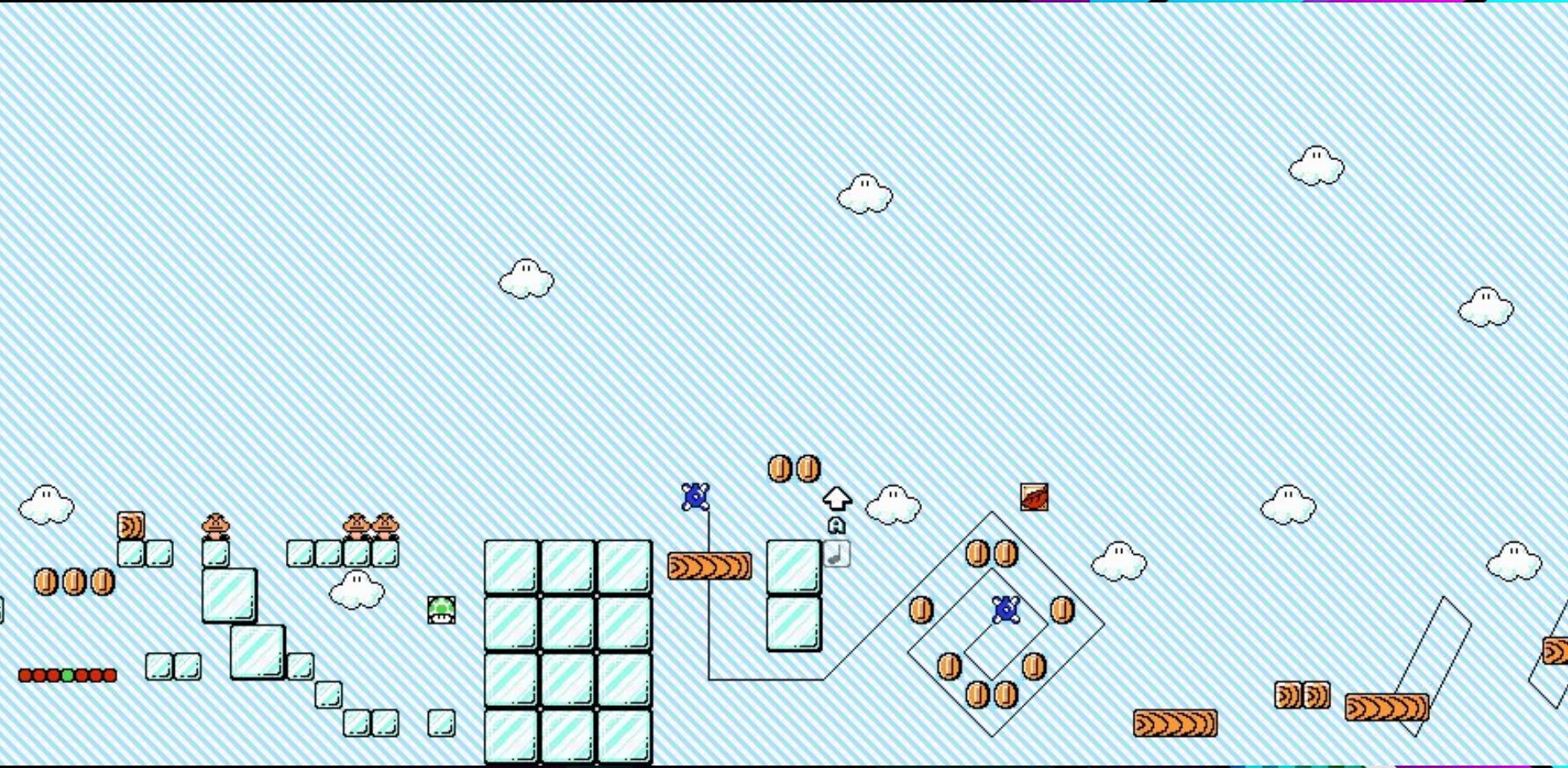


Bioshock


ANATOMY

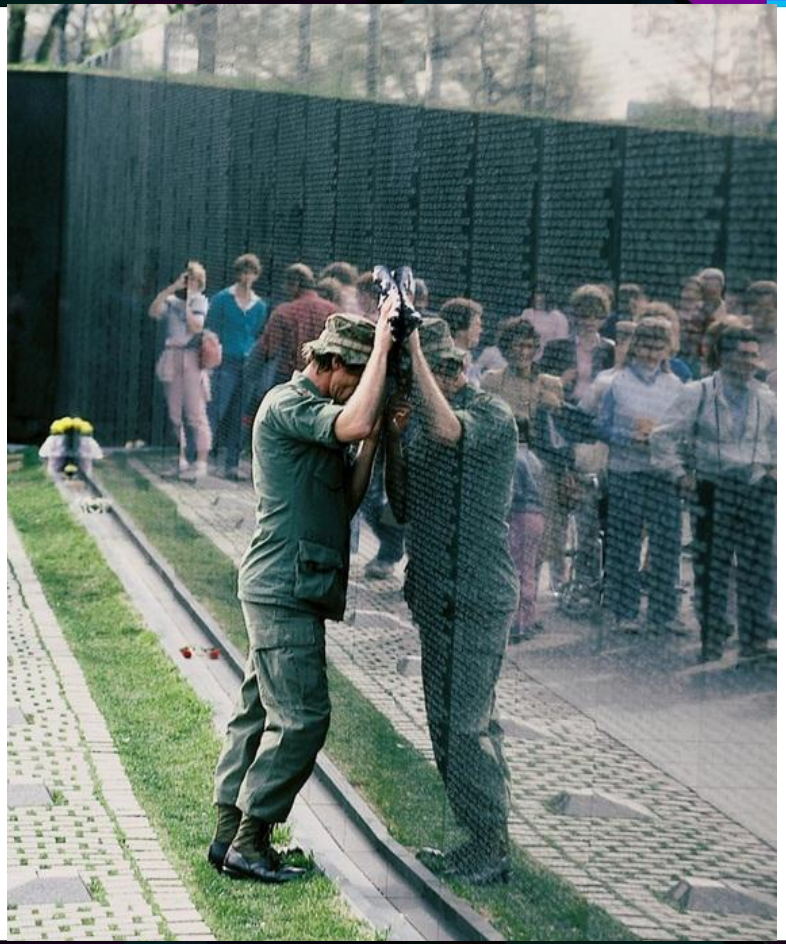

ANATOMY


ANATOMY





Vietnam War Memorial by Maya Lin





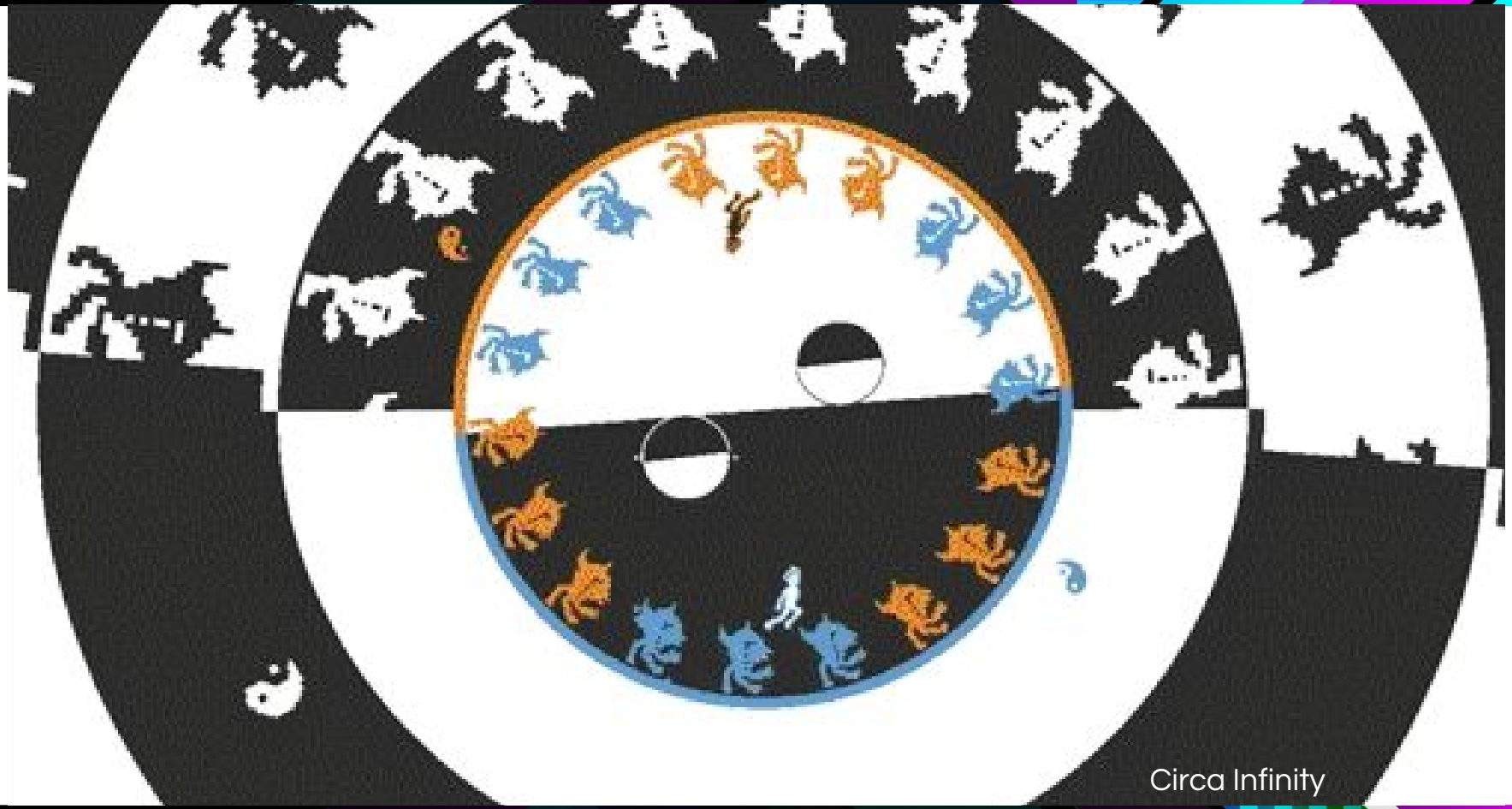
Vietnam War Memorial by Maya Lin


The body is
architectural



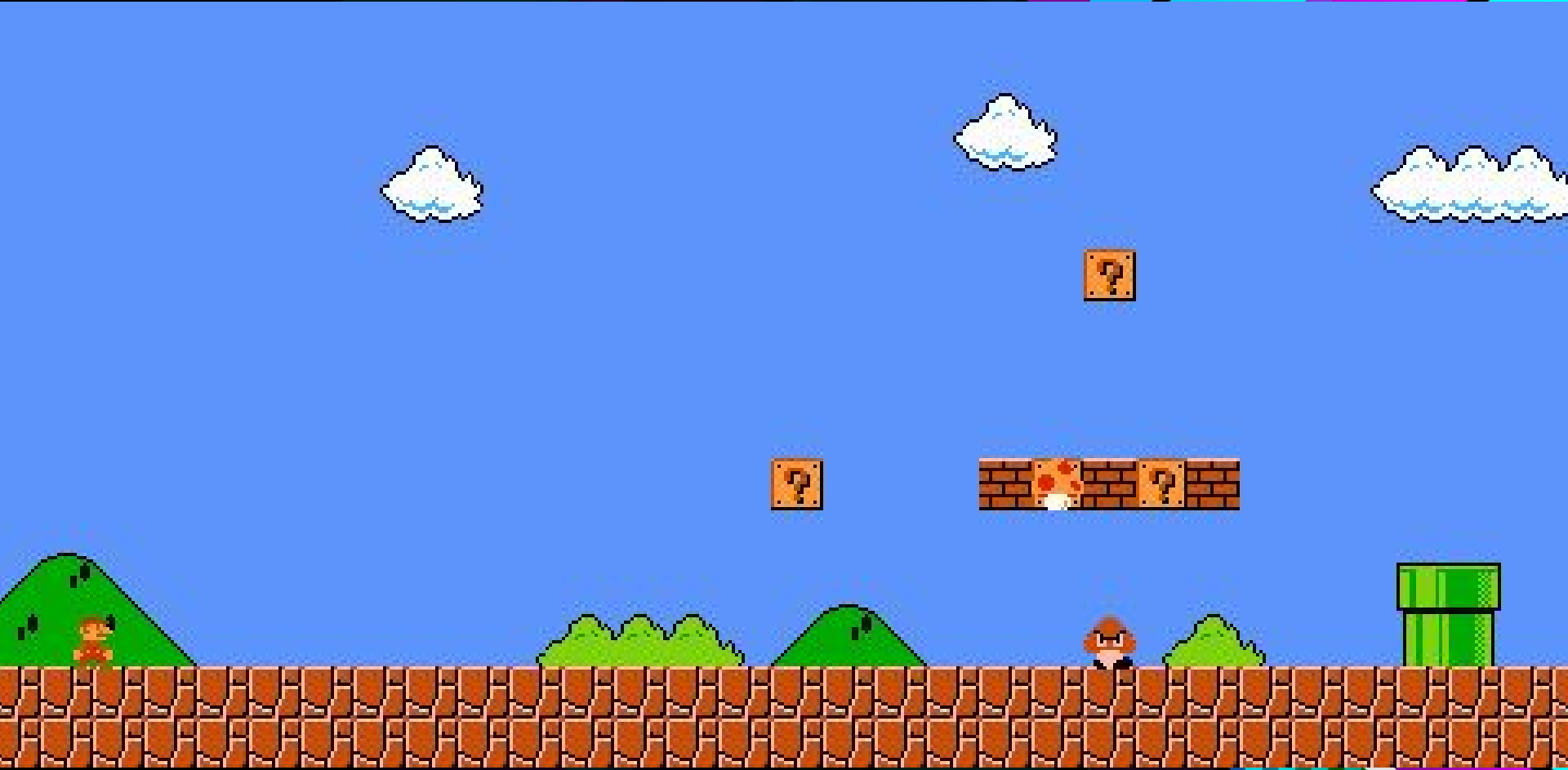


Circa Infinity

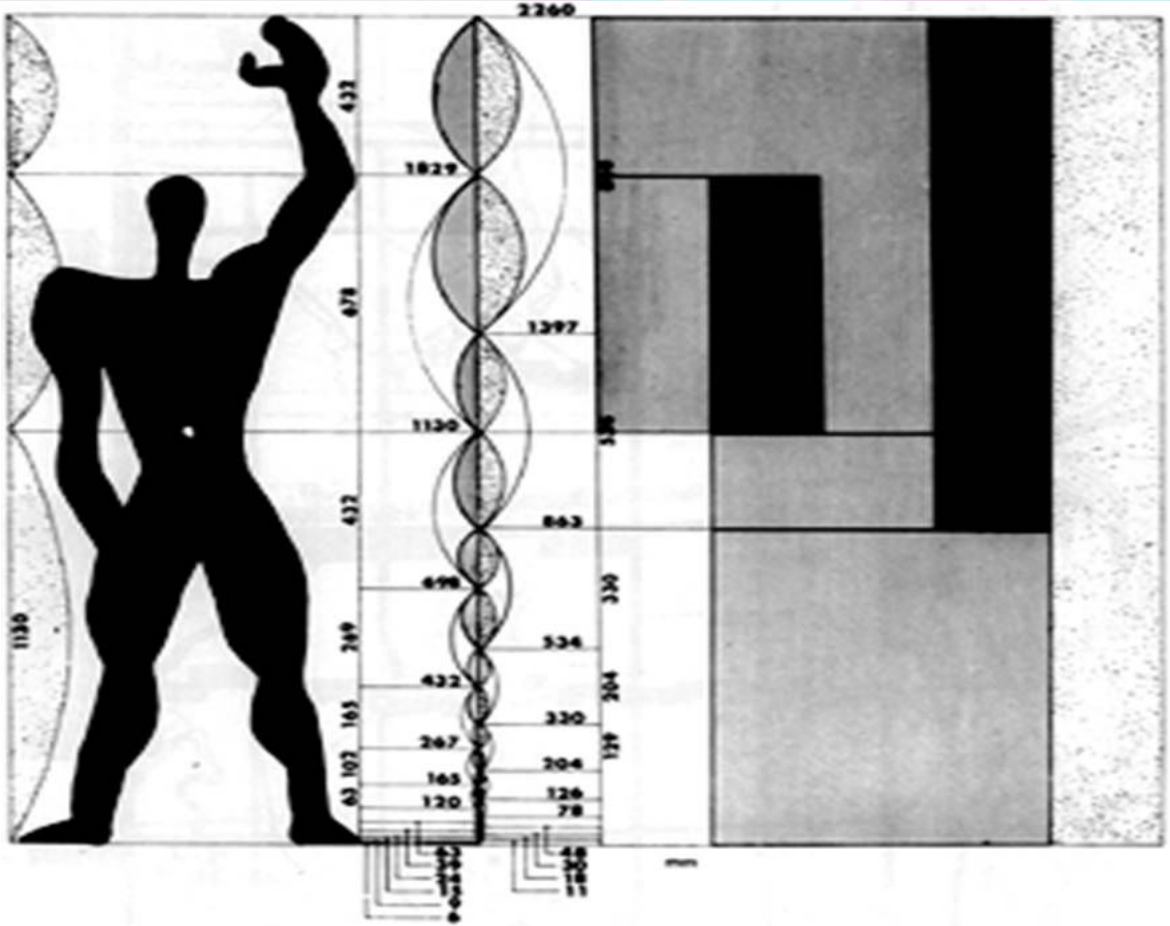


Circa Infinity





The body is constructed




CHAPTER 6
THE FALL
Oh hi. So, how are you holding up?
Because I'm a potato.


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Wrath of the Gods
20
Estus Flask +4
6026


All them bodies...



Grand Shrine, Ise

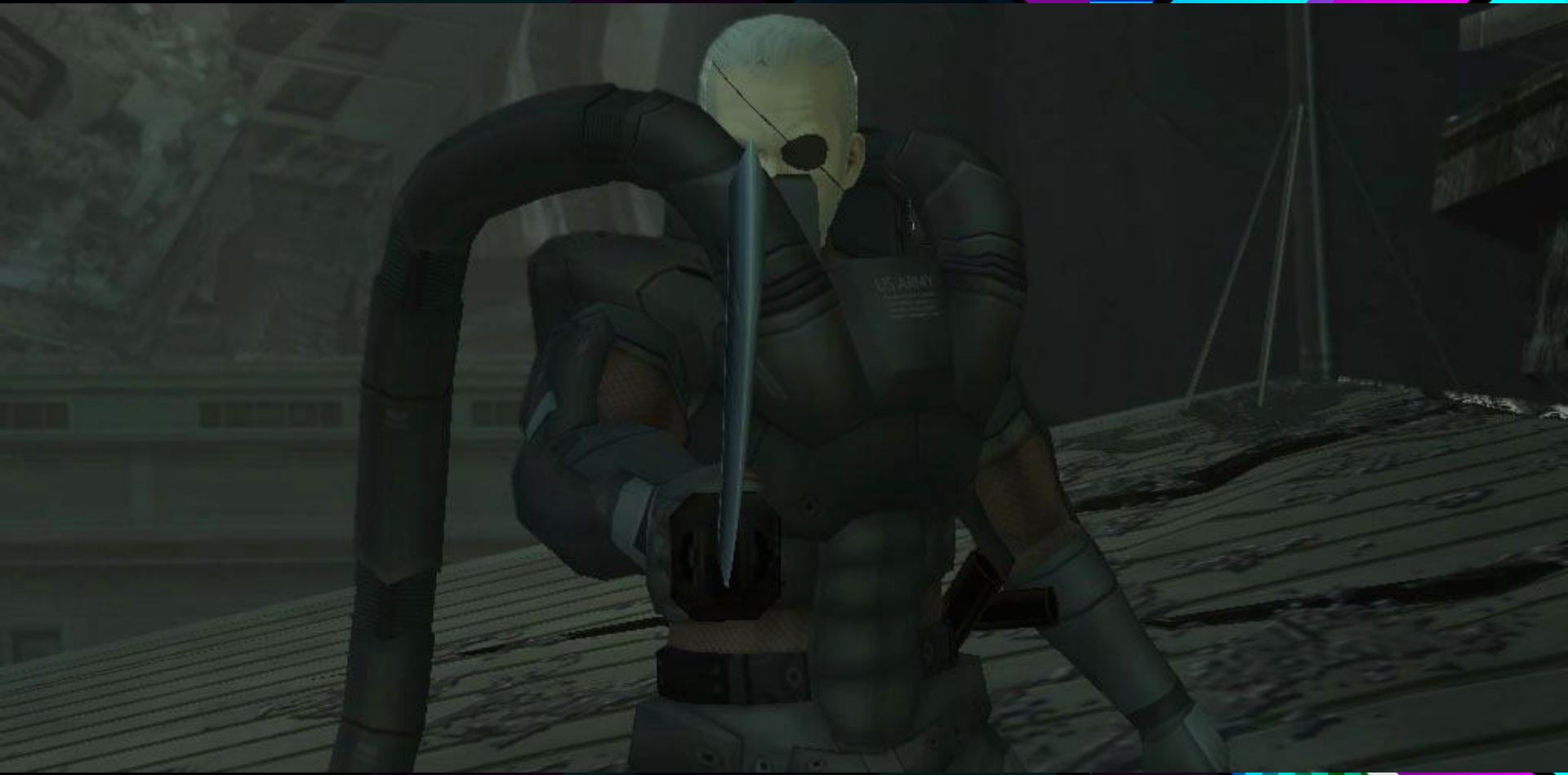

There are no
Easter Eggs up here.
Go away.
06:37
$00439410
N


A HIDEO KOJIMA GAME
TACTICAL ESPIONAGE ACTION
METAL GEAR SOLID 2
SONS OF LIBERTY
HD EDITION



Metal Gear Solid 2







FISSION M

Metal Gear Solid 2

"I don't feel that I'm becoming less of an architect, but more."

-Rem Koolhaas

Let’s end with a challenge:

Thank you!

✧*。٩(ˊ□ˋ*)و✧*。

WORKSHEET NOTES